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Jan. 21, 2000  
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## NEWS RELEASE

### FILMMAKER BRINGS DOCUMENTARY ABOUT HATE CRIMES TO UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

DAYTON, Ohio — Brent Scarpo, a Los Angeles filmmaker, will bring his documentary about many of the recent hate crimes that have captured national attention to the University of Dayton.

Scarpo will show clips of *Journey to a Hate-Free Millennium*, a documentary he produced with Martin Bedogne, and host a discussion in a presentation at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 31, in the Kennedy Union Ballroom. Admission is free and open to the public.

The presentation is sponsored by UD's office of student development and Team UD, a new organization of students, faculty and staff that promotes diversity awareness on campus.

The documentary features footage of Judy Shepard, mother of Matthew Shepard who was beaten to death in Laramie, Wyo., in October 1998. "There is a tremendous need to address these issues with our young people, in order to create a world where every person is accepted and valued, and therefore ensure that what happened to Matthew, and our family, will never happen again," she said in a letter to the filmmakers.

The film also includes commentary from the family of James Byrd, who was dragged to death in Jasper, Texas, and parents and friends of Columbine High School shooting victims. Entertainers such as Elton John and John Dye are also featured.

The goal of the project is to stimulate productive discussions about hate and offer solutions for problems. The attacks should serve as a "wake-up call" about the underlying problem of hate in the country, the filmmakers said. "It's not a gay thing, it's not a black thing, it's not an Asian thing," Scarpo said. "It's a hate thing, and hate is nondiscriminatory."

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Darrell Scott, whose daughter Rachel was killed in the Columbine shootings, said, "I believe that the documentary can be a motivational and educational tool that will have a major impact on every young person who sees it."

Scarpo has worked as an actor and casting director for 15 years. He has cast films such as *Air Force One*, *That Thing You Do* and *Shawshank Redemption*.

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For media interviews, call **Brent Scarpo** at (303) 639-8450, extension 4412. For more information, call **Scott Markland**, in UD's office of educational and special programs, at (937) 229-2229. Call **Christie Kirchner**, president of Team UD, at (937) 285-5301.